

HOUSE RESOLUTION 330
By Brooks (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to commend Mr. M. J. Edwards of Memphis on the special occasion of both the dedication of the library at Hanley Elementary School and the celebration of 5th Grade Class Day in his honor.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and whose many contributions to their community are appropriately acknowledged; and

WHEREAS, Mr. M. J. Edwards of Memphis is one such estimable person who has served with dedication and probity in the field of business as a successful funeral home owner, banker, and real estate owner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. M. J. Edwards is an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the founder of M. J. Edwards Funeral Home, Mr. Edwards can proudly reap the success of his labor, having achieved financial success during his lifetime. The son of Mr. J. S. Edwards, who had worked as a sharecropper in Holly Ridge, Mississippi, many of Mr. Edwards's ancestors lived the physically and mentally taxing life of the sharecropper; and

WHEREAS, seeking a better life for his family, Mr. J. S. Edwards chose the field of funeral service, working for Century Burial Association for a number of years, where he progressed to the position of manager of the firm; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Mr. J. S. Edwards joined in partnership with Mrs. Ida Moore and Reverend A. R. Williams to open Victory Funeral Home, where he served as President. Years

later, his son, M. J. Edwards, would buy out the other partners and together they would operate the business until J. S. Edwards's death in 1966; and

WHEREAS, resigning his position with the family firm, in March 1980, Mr. Edwards opened M. J. Edwards Funeral Home, serving as President of the company. The business would expand over the years to include a large chapel and complete embalming facilities in addition to selling burial policies; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, M. J. Edwards Funeral Home and Wilson Financial Group merged, and today, M. J. Edwards Funeral Home is the largest funeral service provider within the Wilson Financial Group of funeral homes; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Edwards has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of those fortunate enough to work with him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards is also deeply devoted to his family, and he has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; his dedication to his profession and to the good people of Memphis, the State of Tennessee, and our great nation is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commend Mr. M. J. Edwards of Memphis for his outstanding career as a businessman and community leader, and congratulate him on his receipt of the rare privilege of having the library at Hanley Elementary School dedicated in his name and the 5th Grade Class Day being celebrated in his honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.